

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

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4 PFIZER INC. and UCB PHARMA GMBH,) Civil Action
5)
6 Plaintiffs,)
7)
8 v.)
9)
10 ALKEM LABORATORIES LTD., et al.,)
11) NO. 13-1110 (GMS)
12 Defendants.) CONSOLIDATED
13)

14 - - -

15 Wilmington, Delaware
16 Tuesday, November 18, 2014
17 9:30 a.m.
18 Markman Hearing
19

20 - - -

21 BEFORE: HONORABLE GREGORY M. SLEET, U.S.D.C.J.

22 APPEARANCES:

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:33:40 1 THE COURT: Good morning. Please, take your
:33:42 2 seats.

:33:43 3 We have only one term. Right?

:33:46 4 MR. BLUMENFELD: Correct, Your Honor.

:33:48 5 THE COURT: Mr. Blumenfeld.

:33:53 6 MR. BLUMENFELD: Good morning, Your Honor. Jack
:34:03 7 Blumenfeld from Morris Nichols for Pfizer and UCB. Along
:34:07 8 with me at counsel table, James Trainor, Ryan Johnson, Bob
:34:15 9 Counihan, and Jeffrey Oelke, all from White & Case. Mr.
:34:17 10 Trainor will be doing the plaintiffs' presentation this
:34:19 11 morning, with Your Honor's permission.

:34:22 12 Sitting in the back of the courtroom in the
:34:25 13 second row is Stephane Drouin and Jurgen Hassa, who are here
:34:30 14 from UCB. In the row behind them, Chase Romick, who is with
:34:35 15 Pfizer.

:34:39 16 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Blumenfeld.

:34:39 17 Ms. Farnan.

:34:39 18 MS. FARNAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Kelly
:34:41 19 Farnan from Richards, Layton & Finger on behalf of the
:34:44 20 defendants Accord and Alkem. I am joined by my co-counsel
:34:47 21 from Sughrue Mion Michael Dzwonczyk. Mr. Dzwonczyk is going
:34:51 22 to make the presentation on behalf of the plaintiffs today.
:34:54 23 Also on behalf of Accord and Alkem from Sughrue Mion is
:34:58 24 Chandran Iyer.

:35:00 25 THE COURT: Good morning.

:35:01 1 Do any other defendants want to be on the
:35:04 2 record?

:35:04 3 MR. MOORE: Good morning, Your Honor. David
:35:06 4 Moore from Potter Anderson representing Apotex. From
:35:09 5 Rakoczy Molino is Kevin Burke.

:35:10 6 THE COURT: Good morning.

:35:10 7 Mr. Phillips.

:35:11 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning, Your Honor. Jack
:35:13 9 Phillips on behalf of Lupin. With me in the back of the
:35:16 10 courtroom is Jamaica Szeliga from the Leydig firm in
:35:20 11 Washington, D.C.

:35:21 12 MR. POFF: Good morning, Your Honor. Adam Poff
:35:24 13 on behalf of Sandoz. With me is Kristen Venegas from
:35:31 14 McDermott Will & Emery. And from Sandoz, Brian Hurst.

:35:34 15 THE COURT: Good morning, counsel.

:35:35 16 MR. GATTUSO: Good morning, Your Honor.
:35:35 17 Dominick Gattuso from Proctor Heyman. I have with me Mr.
:35:40 18 Steve Moore from Kelley Drye on behalf of Zydus
:35:40 19 Pharmaceuticals.

:35:44 20 THE COURT: Good morning, counsel.

:35:44 21 MR. SCHLADWEILER: Good morning, Your Honor.
:35:46 22 Ben Schladweiler from Seitz Ross on behalf of Wockhardt.

:35:50 23 THE COURT: Good morning, counsel.

:35:53 24 MR. CASTELLANO: Good morning, Your Honor.
:35:53 25 Jeffrey Castellano from Shaw Keller on behalf of Alkem.

:35:59 1 MR. ATHEY: Good morning, Your Honor. Clayton
:36:02 2 Athey from Prickett, Jones & Elliott on behalf of Amerigen.
:36:04 3 With me today is William Hare of McNeely, Hare & War. Also
:36:09 4 Gabriela Materassi.

:36:17 5 MR. SEAMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. John
:36:18 6 Seaman from Abrams & Bayliss on behalf of Hetero. With me
:36:22 7 from Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP is my colleague, Chad
:36:28 8 Landmon.

:40:01 9 THE COURT: Good morning.
:40:02 10 There is not much to talk about. Just one term.
:40:07 11 So, plaintiffs, what are you doing?

:40:09 12 MR. TRAINOR: Your Honor, I have some copies of
:40:10 13 our slides. If I may approach?

:40:13 14 THE COURT: Yes, please.

:40:32 15 MR. TRAINOR: Good morning, Your Honor. James
:40:40 16 Trainor of White & Case on behalf of the plaintiffs, Pfizer,
:40:44 17 Inc. and Alkem Labs, Ltd.

:40:50 18 Your Honor, this is a Hatch-Waxman patent
:40:54 19 infringement case against ten defendants presently. Our
:40:56 20 understanding is two of the defendants, Hetero and Hetero
:41:00 21 Labs, do not join in the dispute that is before the Court
:41:04 22 this morning.

:41:06 23 Your Honor, there are five patents in this
:41:09 24 lawsuit. Four of those patents are not at issue today.
:41:12 25 Those four patents, which we have previously referred to in

1 the proceedings of this case as the compound patents, are
2 shown on the top of the slide there. The patent at issue
3 today is the '650 patent, or what we refer to as the salt
4 patent. That is shown at the bottom of the slide there.

5 One important thing to know about the
6 relationship between the patents in suit, the four compound
7 patents at the top of the slide are in the same patent
8 family. That is, they are related, they claim priority
9 through common priority applications.

10 The '650 patent is not related to the compound
11 patents. However -- and this is quite important -- the
12 compound patents are not prior art to the '650 patent. That
13 is contrary to the statements repeatedly in the defendants'
14 briefing that there is prior art, prior art applications to
15 the '650 salt patent, which is a priority application to the
16 compound patents.

17 So the reason why it is not prior art -- it is a
18 little bit involved -- but it's clear that under no section
19 of 102 do the compound patents or any of the priority
20 documents qualify as prior art. The defendants cite no
21 legal basis to the contrary.

22 Very briefly some background, for pertinent
23 context in the dispute here about the '650 patent.

24 The '650 patent is entitled Stable Salts of
25 Novel Derivatives of 3,3-Diphenylpropylamines.

1 3,3-diphenylpropylamines are the general class of compounds.
2 And specifically claimed in Claim 1 is a subgenus of those
3 diphenylpropylamines that are referred to as phenolic
4 monoesters. Formula I of Claim 1 are various salts of the
5 genus of phenolic monoesters from the patent.

6 As you can see, Claim 1 is a traditional,
7 straightforward chemical compound claim and nothing more.
8 This claim is defined entirely by chemical structure, and we
9 submit is unambiguous to a person of ordinary skill in the
10 art, whether that is organic chemistry, salt chemistry, or
11 what have you.

12 There are also 24 claims in the '650 patent.
13 Nine are asserted against the defendants presently, although
14 we are in the process of trying to narrow that number. Of
15 course, again, only one is at issue today.

16 The '650 patent begins, from its outset,
17 explaining that there are three inventions in this patent.
18 Right in Column 1 it states that the inventions are salt
19 compounds themselves, separately a method for manufacturing
20 those salt compounds, and additionally a method for
21 manufacturing intermediate compounds which are used along
22 the way in the synthesis process that may ultimately lead to
23 the salt.

24 I should note that a species of the Claim 1
25 compounds is the sodium phenol monoester salt fesoterodine

1 fumarate. That is the active pharmaceutical ingredient of
2 the accused product in this case.

3 Very briefly, Your Honor, of these three
4 inventions, salts are the key invention here. In the course
5 of the development of what became the accused product in
6 this case, what the inventors observed was that the
7 free-base form of this genus of compounds exhibited less
8 than ideal stability and it made it less than an ideal
9 candidate as a practical drug candidate. A solution to
10 that, if it could be done, was to try to convert those
11 compounds to salt forms so they could be more available for
12 use in a pharmaceutical application.

13 Once the inventors discovered that, they also
14 discovered separately a method for manufacturing those
15 salts, and specifically, and separately, a method for
16 manufacturing the particular intermediate products, and
17 particularly, the particular intermediate that we refer to
18 as the free base, or the base compound, which is essentially
19 the starting material for making the salt. Due to some
20 efficiencies in the manufacturing process, the process as
21 disclosed here in the defendants' '650 patent, that renders
22 a good yield of pure sodium compounds and free-base
23 compounds that enable the manufacturer to make the drug.
24 Once again, three separate inventions: the salts
25 themselves, a method for manufacturing them, and an

intermediate product, all separately disclosed, all separately claimed.

This slide shows representative claims in the patent to these delineated inventions. Claim 1 is representative of the compounds claims, the claims to the salt compounds themselves. Of course, Claim 1 is the claim in dispute today. Separately, in the middle, you have Claim 7. Claim 7 is an independent claim to a method of manufacturing the salts of Formula I. That is, Claim 7 is a method of manufacturing the compounds of Claim 1.

On the right-hand side, we have Claim 18. Claim 18, also an independent claim. Claim 18 relates to the separate third invention, the method of manufacturing the intermediate compounds. What is depicted there is a free-base form of the ultimate intermediate compound prior to making the salt. That is Claim 18.

So three sets of claims directed to three different inventions.

Turning now to the parties' competing constructions of Claim 1, on the left side of the slide you have Claim 1 as it issued. As Your Honor knows, the plaintiffs submit this claim is entitled to its plain and ordinary meaning. As I said before, this is a straightforward chemical compound. The only language in this compound comprises chemical structure. And the only

1 limitations are chemical structures that can be substituted
2 at the R and X positions of the formula. There is nothing
3 ambiguous about this claim.

4 By contrast, on the right, we have defendants'
5 construction. Even to the untrained eye, we can see that
6 that construction looks nothing like Claim 1 as it issued
7 and as it would be viewed by the public, where we have to
8 evaluate whether or not they infringe.

9 Even the depicted structure, the depicted
10 molecule used in the defendants' construction is quite
11 different from the molecule in Claim 1 as it issued. That
12 particular molecule is actually a different intermediate
13 product, lead products upstream from the ultimate salt
14 that's claimed in Claim 1.

15 A reading of the defendants' construction, it
16 should be noted, does not result in a salt. So the intent
17 of the inventors with Claim 1, as is shown in the title of
18 the patent, as shown in the disclosure, consistent with the
19 chemistry, is to claim a salt. Defendants' construction
20 doesn't even lead one to a salt.

21 A few other notes about defendants' proposed
22 construction here on the right, Your Honor, it really sort
23 of undermines the credibility of their position. First of
24 all, unlike your traditional claim construction case, the
25 defendants are not trying to single out a phrase or

1 particular claim term of Claim 1 and propose a construction
2 for it. Instead, they have rewritten the claim in its
3 entirety. There is no support cited by defendants for a
4 construction of this nature. That is a complete rewrite of
5 the claim.

6 In addition, you will notice at the top that
7 this construction proposed by the defendants is not really
8 tied to Claim 1. It is a proposed construction for Claim 1,
9 but it suggests that this governs all the claims that are
10 disclosed in the '650 patent. This is unconventional, to
11 say the least. And certainly the defendants don't cite any
12 support for a construction of that nature.

13 And finally and most importantly, at the crux of
14 this matter, the use of the words "those obtained by" in
15 defendants' proposed construction signal pretty clearly that
16 the defendants intend to convert a straightforward chemical
17 compound claim into an entirely different type of claim, and
18 that is a product-by-process claim.

19 The issue before the Court today, as it has been
20 framed by the defendants, is whether the inventor of the
21 '650 patent disavowed compounds made by any process other
22 than the process that they import into their construction,
23 and which is a process described in the '650 patent. That
24 is a process that they repeatedly referred to as the
25 "special reaction" process or the "crucial" process.

1 The proposal is that the inventor disavowed any
2 other process, as we understand it.

3 In fact, the relief that is sought here is
4 really extreme, because it's more than just a disavowal
5 case. What the defendants need to overcome or what they
6 invoke here are actually three separate exceptions that are
7 well settled under the law of claim construction. They are
8 each separately treated in the law. They each are not
9 easily overcome.

10 The first is the general prohibition on
11 importing limitations into the claim, which, as Your Honor
12 has probably heard many times, is one of the cardinal sins
13 of claim construction. That is generally what needs to be
14 accomplished here.

15 Separate from that, as we just discussed, the
16 defendants invoke the very rare support for converting a
17 product claim into a product-by-process claim. That is
18 separately treated. That is sort of a separate analysis
19 from the disavowal itself.

20 So in this case, the defendants first have to
21 justify importing a limitation into the claim; then they
22 have to suggest that the claim language clearly triggers an
23 indication that the claim, while not written as a process
24 claim, should be treated as a process claim; and then the
25 defendants will have to show that even if the claim should

1 be construed that way, that there was a particular process
2 that was clearly and manifestly disavowed.

3 Those are very high hurdles to clear, each of
4 them, and the defendants clear none of them.

5 It should be noted with respect to these cases
6 that talk about converting a product claim to a
7 product-by-process claim that the purpose of
8 product-by-process claims -- and this is enunciated by the
9 Supreme Court in BASF, by the Federal Circuit in Atlantic
10 Thermoplastics, and this District in the Biacore decision --
11 product-by-process claims, the purpose of them is really to
12 define a claim where they otherwise can't be defined, in
13 other words, where a claim cannot be defined by structure.

14 That is the polar opposite of the situation
15 here, where Claim 1 is clearly defined by chemical
16 structure. There is absolutely no call for treating this
17 claim as a product-by-process claim.

18 Put simply, the premise of defendants' argument
19 is as follows, again, as we understand it: The salt
20 compounds in the '650 patent have some beneficial
21 properties. According to the defendants, those salts were
22 already in the prior art. What they specifically point to
23 is something referred to as the 212 PCT application. Again,
24 this is a priority application of the other compounds of the
25 patent in suit that are not disputed here today. They

1 suggested these were prior art and they suggest these salts
2 were already in the prior art. Therefore, according to the
3 defendants, the only way that the salt claims in the '650
4 patent are patentable is if they are limited to this
5 process, because if they were disclosed in the prior art
6 already, the only way they could justify their validity is
7 to limit them to a particular process, which, according to
8 the defendants, is the only thing new in the '650 patent.

9 Those premises are all resting on a number of
10 assumptions, each of which is decidedly false.

11 The first thing is that the defendants assume
12 that, in fact, there was an inferior process in the prior
13 art. What they are suggesting is that the prior processes
14 didn't result in the claims of this patent, and therefore
15 you are limited to the process that is disclosed in this
16 patent.

17 In fact, there was no process in the prior art.
18 The priority documents to the compound patent, the 212 PCT,
19 is not prior art as a matter of law. In addition,
20 factually, there is a process disclosed in that 212 PCT
21 application that they allege is prior art. And that
22 chemistry, that process, is the very same process that's
23 disclosed in the '650 patent, which raises the question:
24 What exactly are they disavowing? The same process in that
25 reference that the defendants point to.

1 The defendants' premise also assumes that the
2 properties of the salt, for example, the properties in the
3 patent, the level of purity, the yield, the fact that it's
4 in solid crystalline form, the defendants assume that all
5 those properties are impacted by the process, that they are
6 impacted or influenced by the intermediates that you use to
7 get to the salt. But no person of ordinary skill would ever
8 suggest that that is the case, that the way or method that
9 you get to the ultimate free base has no bearing on what the
10 properties of the salt are.

11 In addition, the argument assumes that Claim 1
12 requires these properties. But it doesn't. If you look at
13 Claim 1, Claim 1 is just simply to the salt. It is not to a
14 salt having certain purity, a salt in solution form, a salt
15 in solid form, a salt giving way to certain yield. None of
16 that is required by the claim.

17 The implication is you can't get good salts
18 without using this process. That assumes that the claim
19 requires any of that. And it does not.

20 Finally, and critically, the defendants assume
21 that the special reaction process that they repeatedly refer
22 to in their briefing is actually linked to the salt
23 compounds, it is actually linked to the claimed compounds,
24 the claims for the compound themselves.

25 That is not the case. A fair reading of the

1 specification makes very clear that to the extent that the
2 special process is special at all or is linked to anything
3 at all, it is linked to the method of manufacturing the
4 salts and a method of manufacturing the compounds. Again,
5 separately disclosed, separately claimed inventions.

6 No case that the defendants cite supports their
7 position on claim construction. But they are all very
8 instructive because they set forth a very formulaic analysis
9 that the courts routinely use when assessing whether
10 disavowal has occurred, when assessing whether any product
11 claim should be limited to a product-by-process claim.

12 That is sort of a sequential review of the
13 intrinsic evidence.

14 The courts in these cases are looking for
15 particular evidence, they are looking for particular facts
16 with respect to each segment of the intrinsic evidence. So
17 we will cite to intrinsic evidence in turn.

18 In contrast, with all of the decisions cited by
19 the defendants, the claims here have no language that would
20 suggest to the reader that any importation of any limitation
21 is required. Certainly, no language that suggests a process
22 should be imported, and no language in the claims that
23 suggests a disavowal in and of itself.

24 Again, Claim 1 is entirely defined by chemical
25 structure. There is no other language in the claim other

1 than the language of chemistry.

2 So by contrast, you have these decisions, for
3 example, the Andersen decision, which the defendants rely on
4 heavily in support for the proposition of disavowal. The
5 Andersen claim that was at issue, one of the terms that was
6 in the claim was the term "extrudate." Extrudate is by
7 definition a product by process. Extrudate is some material
8 that is extruded from an extrusion process.

9 So the courts are looking for that kind of
10 language, language that suggests there is an ambiguity,
11 language that suggests there is something operational or
12 functional about the claim, language that suggests certain
13 properties of the claim are required to achieve or exhibit
14 results. None of that language is present in Claim 1 here.

15 Courts also look to the other claims of the
16 patent. While Claim 7 is not asserted and no other claim of
17 the '650 patent is at issue here today, it is important to
18 consider that Claim 7 already claims, as we pointed out
19 earlier, a method of manufacturing the very same compound of
20 Claim 1. The defendants by and large ignore this. But
21 what's relevant here is to sort of consider the fact that if
22 you were to adopt defendants' construction, you would have
23 to superimpose it over the claim. That is what claim
24 construction is. I should be able to superimpose that claim
25 construction over Claim 1 as they propose it. If I do that,

1 and sticking to the appropriate law and the proposition
2 under the patent law that claim terms used across the patent
3 are afforded the same meaning, what that means is Claim 7
4 would read, A method of manufacturing compounds of General
5 Formula I, which the defendants have now defined by its
6 method of manufacture.

7 So it would be a method of manufacturing a
8 compound that is manufactured this way by the same
9 manufacturing process. It would be repetitive, superfluous.
10 Claim 7 would read nonsensically.

11 Next, the courts look to the specification, of
12 course. The language is pretty clear. The standard is
13 pretty clear across all the decisions cited by both parties
14 that what the courts are looking for is a manifest, clear,
15 unambiguous, surrender of claim scope. This is seen by
16 expressly exclusionary language somewhere in the
17 specification.

18 The cases cited by defendants hit on a couple of
19 terms that the cases themselves sort of alluded to, when
20 looking for terms like "essential," "applies to all
21 embodiments," cases where the specification talks about "The
22 present invention is" or "This invention is," followed by a
23 limiting property."

24 Probably the main case cited by the defendants
25 in support of a disavowal with respect to the specification

1 is the X2Y case. In the X2Y case, in determining what kind
2 of specification it was, what phrase, the feature was
3 universal to all embodiments of the invention.

4 Now, the '650 patent contains no such language.
5 You can read it and confirm that. It certainly contains
6 none of that language with respect to or in connection with
7 a special reaction process or a crucial process. In fact,
8 the only reference to any phrase remotely resembling those
9 cases is the phrase "the present invention" or "the
10 invention."

11 In Column 2, right up front, the beginning of
12 the '650 patent, the inventors uses that phrase, "The
13 present invention is," "The present invention is the
14 method," "The present invention is the salt," "The present
15 invention is a method for providing for a high yield."

16 When they are defining the present invention, we
17 can see clearly we are talking about the invention as we
18 described it before, a broad description of salts, a broad
19 description of a method of manufacturing, a broad
20 description of a method that provides for a high yield for
21 the intermediate products.

22 This is broad language signalling the inventor
23 had no design on limiting the scope of his patent.
24 Certainly, the word "special reaction process" or "crucial
25 process" is nowhere near the reference to "the present

invention" or "the invention."

Defendants really base their entire argument on the reference to this special reaction process. I think it appears something like ten times in their briefing. In fact, it only appears twice in the patent. Focusing on the passage of Column 9 of the patent, the defendants cite this passage, "In order to obtain the compounds in accordance with the invention in the form of their salts, the special reaction process via particular intermediate stages and individually identifiable intermediate products is crucial." This is the passage defendants cite from Column 9.

The sentence begins, "In order to obtain." This is the same language that is in the defendants' construction, which is a construction that proposes limiting to a process. "In order to obtain" is signaling, I am about to tell you what my support is for my claims to the method of manufacturing process. So the special reaction process is in reference to a description of that separately claimed invention, more particularly, the separately claimed invention of the process for manufacturing intermediates and the intermediate products.

That is really a key distinction. These are very different molecules. There is no reference here or no suggestion that, whatever this process is, it is supposed to limit all salts that are covered by the claims of this

1 patent.

2 THE COURT: Counsel, I am looking at that same
3 column. If the process is crucial for obtaining the
4 compounds, couldn't that be construed as a clear disavowal?

5 MR. TRAINOR: I would suggest not, Your Honor,
6 respectfully, because what is really crucial and special
7 about this process has to do with the solvents that are used
8 in the process and to make that final intermediate. We had
9 that reference in the passage of the third invention, which
10 is about getting a good yield of that starting material.
11 That is what this is in reference to.

12 Maybe there is some way to read this where you
13 can say, well, this is connected to the salts. But we
14 submit that this and the following description, which is a
15 description of the method of making one species of that
16 compound, which is fesoterodine fumarate, is being
17 described.

18 The fact that it is crucial and special is quite
19 different than saying it is required or I am excluding all
20 other processes. It is just saying, look, it is important
21 that you do it if you want to get a high yield of these
22 intermediates. It is important that you follow this,
23 because, depending on how you do the synthesis, you might
24 get a lower yield, you might get some salts that are oily in
25 form, you might get some salts that are amorphous. And that

1 really is of no consequence, because those salts, however
2 impractical they are relative to highly pure crystalline
3 salts, they are still covered by Claim 1. That is still the
4 intellectual property of this inventor.

5 So I don't think that this is as remarkable as
6 defendants suggest it is.

7 In addition, Your Honor, what the defendants cut
8 out from that passage in their briefing is the very next
9 sentence. The very next sentence says, "This is explained
10 using Reaction Diagram 1," or Figure 1, on the face of the
11 patent, "in which the conversions with R-configured
12 compounds are described." This is the racemate form of the
13 glyemic, the enantiomer form of the genus of compounds.

14 But it concludes very clearly, but without this
15 being restrictive, without this being restrictive, this
16 language that is diametrically opposed to language of clear
17 exclusion, of manifest exclusion of the claim scope or
18 disavowal of claim scope, that is not anywhere in the
19 ballpark of an exclusion. And the inventor expressly carved
20 that out.

21 The only other place where "special reaction
22 process" is referenced in the '650 patent is up front, right
23 at the bottom of Column 1, where the inventor claimed it in
24 the background of the invention. We have highlighted the
25 portions of the specification here and I have blown them up.

1 At the top, the figure that has been blown up at
2 the top of the slide here, that is Formula A. Formula A is
3 a reference throughout the patent. What Formula A is, it is
4 the free-base form. This is the base compound for making
5 the salts. Again, very different compound than the salt
6 itself. This compound, there are many observations
7 discussed about the stability of this compound. Be that as
8 it may, you need this compound to ultimately make the salts.
9 So you need to be able to make it and you need to be able to
10 make it with relative efficiency.

11 That aside, the other reference to special
12 reaction process described at the bottom of this column --
13 and we can zero in here, it's been blown up --
14 "Surprisingly, it has now been found that the
15 above-mentioned disadvantages can be avoided if compounds
16 with the structure of general Formula A, once they have been
17 prepared under a special reaction process, are converted
18 with a physiologically compatible inorganic or organic
19 acid..."

20 So it couldn't be more clear from this passage
21 that the inventor is connecting the special reaction process
22 to the free base, to the base compound, to the starting
23 material, not to the salt. That compound is separately
24 claimed, as we saw already. That compound in and of itself
25 is an invention. An improved method for making that

1 compound is disclosed and disclaimed.

2 The reference to special reaction process
3 disconnected from the salt is at least not directly
4 connected, and specifically refers to the free-base compound
5 here, which is not the subject of Claim 1.

6 Finally, the courts look to the prosecution
7 history if it is in evidence. And very simply, what the
8 courts are looking for in these disavowal cases or these
9 conversion to product-by-process cases are instances where
10 an applicant is distinguishing prior art upon rejection and
11 that distinguishing of the prior art is necessarily carving
12 out some of the claim scope that the claim might otherwise
13 be read to have. That has not occurred in this case, and
14 for good reason.

15 The prosecution history of Claim 1 is relatively
16 uneventful here. This is shown in the slide. There was one
17 office action, and there was no rejection of that claim over
18 any prior art. In fact, the only rejection that was made
19 was a provisional double-patenting rejection over the
20 co-pending, co-owned application that the prior art document
21 for the compound patents, that is, the U.S. version of that
22 212 PCT.

23 Far from being prior art and being rejected as
24 prior art by the Patent Office, the Patent Office recognized
25 that it was not prior art, and therefore made a provisional

double-patenting rejection which the applicant overcame with a terminal disclaimer, and the claim was allowed.

So every case that the defendants cite has facts, in terms of disavowal, they have facts where the applicants were distinguishing prior art and the disavowal was commensurate with the distinction over the prior art. Anderson, Astra, C.R. Bard, SciMed, Verizon, all those cases have that fact.

By contrast, in this case, we never had any rejection over the prior art. We therefore never distinguished over any prior art, and thus didn't even have the occasion to disavow by virtue of some argument to distinguish prior art.

Those facts are not here.

In summary, Your Honor, there are three inventions here, separately disclosed, separately claimed, one of which is the salt compounds, and those are the salt compounds of Claim 1.

The intrinsic evidence, as we just went through, is completely devoid of any suggestion that there was a disavowal or that a conversion to a product-by-process claim is appropriate.

And I just want to reiterate that the fact that the defendants' argument rests on a supposed process, the salts being disclosed in the prior art, there is no prior

1 art. The reference that they allude to in their briefing is
2 not prior art as a matter of law. And that is important,
3 because the Vanguard decision by the Federal Circuit is
4 really on point here when it comes to taking a standard
5 product or compound claim and attempting to convert it to a
6 product by process.

7 The defendants only distinguish that case by
8 saying, the difference with that case is that those claims,
9 the subject matter of those claims was actually novel. So
10 the implication is these salts are not novel. But, in fact,
11 they are novel, and there is no prior art.

12 That is all I have, Your Honor. Thank you very
13 much.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, counsel.

15 MR. DZWONCZYK: Your Honor, I also have some
16 slides. May I approach?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. DZWONCZYK: Your Honor, as the plaintiffs --

19 THE COURT: Counsel, remind of your name.

20 MR. DZWONCZYK: Mike Dzwonczyk from the Sughrue
21 Mion firm. I am here for Accord and Amneal, but speaking on
22 behalf of all the defendants on the claim terms set forth,
23 except for Hetero and Hetero Labs.

24 As the plaintiffs state, Your Honor, this case
25 pertains to fesoterodine fumarate. It is a drug to treat

1 overactive bladder. Before getting right to our claim
2 construction points, I would like to spend a minute or two
3 talking about the background of this patent, what happened
4 before, because I think it will help better understand the
5 defendants' position.

6 Prior to this patent, a drug called tolterodine
7 was used to treat overactive bladder. It was commercially
8 marketed, patented, and hadn't been discovered. After a
9 patient took tolterodine, it was discovered and reported in
10 the literature that tolterodine was metabolized by a patient
11 to its active form called 5-HMT, 5-hydroxymethyl
12 tolterodine. That means a patient, after taking
13 tolterodine, would actually add the hydroxyl group onto the
14 molecule and form in-vivo the more active form.

15 But tolterodine had certain drawbacks. The
16 biggest drawback was that certain patients taking
17 tolterodine metabolized tolterodine at different rates.

18 So in extensive metabolizers, 5-HMT was formed
19 rather quickly, and a high amount of the drug got to the
20 active site, the muscular receptors and bladder. In poor
21 metabolizers, the drug was actually metabolized more slowly,
22 as tolterodine became bound up with plasma proteins. So a
23 smaller amount of the drug would effectively get to the
24 active site.

25 The problem with the prior art tolterodine was

1 inter-patient variation. Different patients would actually
2 tolerate the drug differently, and depending on what kind of
3 metabolizer you were, you actually might get a different
4 amount of the active form to the site.

5 The challenge became how to get the active form
6 5-HMT to the active site of a patient. The most immediate
7 solution was to simply administer it directly. I think
8 scientists recognized and the literature reported that 5-HMT
9 was extremely hydrophilic. It was very water-soluble. As
10 such, it couldn't permeate biological membranes very easily.
11 It simply would get passed through.

12 So the challenge became how to take the active
13 metabolite, 5-HMT, and get it to the active site of the
14 patient.

15 So researchers began working on certain ways to
16 do that. And the '650 patent tells us that prodrugs of
17 5-HMT were made.

18 Prodrugs are precursors, actively metabolized --
19 I don't mean to go into that very extensively.

20 As a result of that work, a number of prodrugs
21 or precursors of 5-HMT were prepared, one of which was
22 fesoterodine. What happens after a patient takes
23 fesoterodine, which is much more lipophilic than 5-HMT, the
24 body essentially cleaves off the isobutyl portion and 5-HMT
25 will result.

:15:06 1 Fesoterodine is an ester derivative of 5-HMT.
:15:09 2 It is converted. But to be clear, the prodrugs, including
:15:13 3 fesoterodine, they are not the subject of the '650 patent.
:15:16 4 The plaintiffs tell us it's the salt. And that's where we
:15:19 5 begin our analysis.

:15:23 6 The compounds are called
:15:24 7 3,3-diphenylpropylamines because the core of general Formula
:15:30 8 I is a propyl amine, three carbon units with an amine or an
:15:34 9 NH group on the end. The carbons are numbered, 1, 2, and 3.
:15:38 10 And we see attached to Carbon No. 3 two phenyl groups. And
:15:42 11 that's why these compounds are called
:15:44 12 3,3-diphenylpropylamines. That is what is claimed, this
:15:48 13 general salt structure, in Claim 1, and that is fairly
:15:51 14 straightforward.

:15:53 15 On its face the defendants agree, there is
:15:55 16 nothing unclear about the language of Claim 1. But this is
:15:59 17 claim construction. It's not statutory construction. So we
:16:02 18 have to look at the intrinsic evidence, as Your Honor is
:16:05 19 aware.

:16:06 20 If we look at the very first page of the patent,
:16:09 21 we find the title and abstract. The title tells us we have
:16:14 22 stable salts of novel derivatives of
:16:16 23 3,3-diphenylpropylamines. They are highly pure, they are
:16:20 24 crystalline, et cetera.

:16:21 25 The abstract also tells us that the stable

1 crystalline intermediates are essential for obtaining the
2 compounds of the invention. Before we even turn the page,
3 we are told about the highly stable crystalline nature of
4 the claimed compounds and the essential nature of the
5 intermediates used to obtain them. Just to make sure we
6 understand that, the patentees go on, right in Column 1, and
7 tell us the exact same thing. These are salts of compounds
8 and they are highly pure and stable.

9 In Column 1, the patentees go on a little
10 further and they tell us about what was known. When they
11 use the word known, they are talking about what went before.
12 What they say is, from document PCT, the 212 document, novel
13 derivatives of 3,3-diphenylpropylamines are known. If one
14 looks at the WO publication of the PCT application, right at
15 Page 11, we see a description that says, "Particularly
16 preferred phenolic monoesters are," and fesoterodine is
17 listed.

18 Elsewhere in the patent, it says the compounds
19 of the invention can be formed of free bases and their
20 salts. Elsewhere in the patent -- I have not illustrated it
21 on the slide -- is an actual production of the recorded
22 synthesis of fesoterodine hydrochloride, which is a salt.
23 The patentees say, this is known, and because it's known,
24 it's not part of the '650 patent claims.

25 The patentees go on in Column 1 and they say,

1 "Preferred are the known compounds according to Formula A
2 substituted as shown."

3 It then talks about the fact that the preferred
4 known compounds, the 3,3-diphenylpropylamines and whatever
5 else is disclosed in the PCT application, have certain
6 disadvantages. For example, in Column 1, Lines 47 to 62,
7 the patent tells us the known compounds have low water
8 solubility. They have restricted oral bioavailability. The
9 monoesters undergo intermolecular rearrangement, they
10 degrade, they form diols, et cetera.

11 The '650 patent then tells us that salts of the
12 known compounds can be obtained but they can be amorphous or
13 hygroscopic or too chemically unstable to form
14 pharmaceutical compounds.

15 Quite simply, because all of these compounds are
16 known and they all have stated disadvantages, they are not
17 part of the '650 patent claims.

18 We then get to the bottom of Column 1 of the
19 '650 patent, where the patent says, "Surprisingly, it has
20 now been found that all these disadvantages can be avoided
21 if the known compounds, general Formula A, are prepared
22 under a special reaction process and then converted to a
23 salt."

24 The special reaction process is used to make
25 compounds of general Formula A.

1 I think counsel referred to those as the
2 free-base form but not the salted form. But there is
3 nothing in the patent that says the special reaction process
4 includes the last step, salt formation. And that is the
5 reason defendants have not proposed salt formation as part
6 of its claim construction, because the patent tells us that
7 only making the intermediate general Formula A is made by
8 the special process.

9 Moving along, following that disclosure of
10 surprisingly, the '650 patent then tells us, and summarizes
11 the three known compounds the claimed subject matter is
12 intended to address, to provide highly pure crystalline
13 compounds, to provide a method of manufacturing stable
14 intermediates, and to provide a method of manufacturing in
15 high-yield chemo- or regioselectivity.

16 Again, they tell us that problem is solved by
17 providing the stable crystalline compounds of general
18 Formula I.

19 If we compare just using the first two columns
20 of the '650 patent, if we compare what is stated to be known
21 and compare that to what is claimed, what we find is that
22 3,3-diphenylpropylamines were known both as neutral forms as
23 well as salts with physiologically compatible acids. After
24 all, fesoterodine and racemic fesoterodine are said to be
25 known. They are in the PCT application.

:20:54 1 What is claimed in the '650 patent are the
:20:56 2 3,3-diphenylpropylamine compounds only as salts. The known
:21:02 3 compounds are said to be disadvantageous. The claimed
:21:06 4 compounds were said to be advantageous.

:21:09 5 So there has to be a difference between what is
:21:11 6 being claimed and what the patentees tell us is already
:21:13 7 known. Of course, the patentees tell us exactly what the
:21:17 8 difference is between what is claimed and what went before
:21:20 9 it.

:21:21 10 In Column 9, they say, "In order to obtain the
:21:24 11 compounds in accordance with the invention in the form their
:21:27 12 salts the special reaction process via intermediate stages
:21:32 13 and individually identifiable intermediate products is
:21:34 14 crucial."

:21:36 15 First and foremost, this disclosure says
:21:39 16 compounds of the invention. That means all compounds of the
:21:42 17 invention. They are not talking about selective embodiments
:21:45 18 or certain subclasses of compounds. It is a general
:21:49 19 statement as to the compounds of the invention as a whole.

:21:52 20 It's akin to statements such as, "The present
:21:55 21 invention is."

:21:57 22 The statement then talks about the special
:22:00 23 reaction process via particular intermediate stages, et
:22:04 24 cetera. Special is a word chosen by the patentee. It means
:22:07 25 not conventional or routine, but not something left to the

1 knowledge of a person of ordinary skill, but something of
2 greater significance.

3 The patentee talks about particular intermediate
4 stages and individually identifiable compounds. That
5 doesn't mean any intermediates which might be transient or
6 not characterized. They are very particular about what the
7 special reaction process is.

8 Of course, finally, of course, it has been much
9 briefed and much spoken about, the use of the word crucial
10 at the end of the sentence. Obviously, crucial is not a
11 common word that is found in patents. We believe crucial
12 conveys something to the reader that is critical and
13 imperative, and in its use here suggests to defendants or
14 should tell the person of ordinary skill in the art that the
15 reaction process used to obtain the compounds of the
16 invention are critical and imperative.

17 Now, the patentees could have said that the
18 process and the particular intermediates used to make them
19 were desirable or advantageous or beneficial. But they
20 didn't say that. They could have said the process steps
21 were preferred or highly preferred or more preferred. They
22 didn't say that, either. They could have even said
23 important, or fundamental. But they used the word crucial.
24 And defendants submit that that language simply can't be
25 ignored in deciding what compounds are within the scope of

1 the claims.

2 We have talked a lot about the special reaction
3 process. I would like to walk through that briefly.

4 Figure 1 of the '650 patent illustrates the
5 reaction steps by which the claimed salts are made.
6 Beginning with the starting material, it is designated No. 3
7 in Figure 1, Compound 3 has to be made and the '650 patent
8 tells people how to make it.

9 Beginning with Compound 3, Figure 1 shows us how
10 to get to Compound 6, which is an intermediate en route to
11 the claimed salts. And Figure 1 tells us you can take one
12 of two pathways. You can either begin with Compound 3, and
13 reduce first and then hydrogenate, or you can carry out
14 those steps in the reverse order, you can hydrogenate and
15 then reduce. Either way, one obtains Compound 6 as a result
16 of the reaction process.

17 After one obtains Compound 6, necessary to all
18 of the productions or syntheses disclosed in the patent is
19 an acylation step followed by salt formation.

20 The patent tells us that the first three of
21 these steps are crucial -- again, this is from the bottom of
22 Column 1 -- but that the fourth step, salt formation, is not
23 crucial. It is telling that every one of the examples in
24 the '650 patent follows this special reaction pathway in
25 Figure 1. I think it's equally telling that there is no

1 disclosure in the patent of any other ways to make the
2 compounds of general Formula A.

3 So much for the patent disclosure.

4 The prosecution history, admittedly, there was
5 not much. There was a single office action. It was
6 responded to, and the patent was allowed.

7 Interestingly, after the patent was issued, the
8 patentees filed a certificate of correction to the language
9 of the patent. The original language of the patent stated
10 that "Compounds of general Formula I are that," and A, B, C,
11 D were the four reaction steps used to make them. They
12 corrected that language to say, "Compounds of general
13 Formula I are manufactured in that," and then the four
14 reaction steps followed.

15 Interestingly, the patentee doesn't say those
16 four steps, the compounds are preferably manufactured or
17 typically manufactured. They said in the certificate of
18 correction: They are manufactured in the four process
19 steps.

20 On this record, Your Honor, both the patent
21 language and the language of the prosecution history, we
22 submit it is hard to imagine a clearer case for construing
23 Claim 1 as encompassing only those compounds that are made
24 by the crucial reaction process of the selected
25 intermediates.

1 But that is what the patent tells us. That's
2 what the patent said. And that is how defendants submit
3 Claim 1 should be construed.

4 I would like to address just a couple of
5 comments made by plaintiffs in their briefs.

6 Plaintiffs said that we completely misread
7 disclosure. They told the Court that the word crucial bears
8 no connection to the claimed compounds. They further
9 explain that crucial and special relate to the methods of
10 manufacturing as a separate group of claimed inventions.
11 But they are beside the point as to the product claims.

12 With respect, Your Honor, we submit their
13 arguments are without merit. Quite simply, if one reads the
14 disclosure of Column 9, it says, "In order to obtain the
15 compounds in accordance with the invention, the special
16 reaction process is crucial."

17 That passage doesn't say, In order to perform
18 the method of manufacturing of the invention, the special
19 process steps are crucial.

20 It says, "The process is crucial for obtaining
21 the claimed compounds."

22 And so we submit that "crucial" absolutely is a
23 description of the process steps required to make the
24 compounds.

25 I understand plaintiffs don't like the word

1 crucial in this patent. But I think it's incorrect for them
2 to say it bears no relation to the compounds that are
3 claimed in Claim 1.

4 A second argument plaintiffs have made is that
5 the reaction process of the '650 patent is a preferred
6 embodiment, not necessary, it's preferred, and it doesn't
7 limit the claims. But the patentees, in the actual
8 specification, don't call the reaction process preferred,
9 Your Honor. They call it crucial.

10 The patentees certainly knew the difference
11 between the two words, because they used preferred to
12 describe compounds of intermediates, but never in connection
13 with any process steps. The plaintiffs don't cite to
14 anything in the language of the patent downgrading the
15 crucial nature of the process steps to one that is only
16 preferred, because preferred is never used in connection
17 with the process.

18 Next, plaintiffs talk about the fact that
19 defendants are trying to convert Claim 1 into a
20 product-by-process claim. And it's our position that we are
21 not, Your Honor. On its face, Claim 1 is a product claim.
22 Plaintiffs say there is no process steps limiting the
23 language in Claim 1 on its face. And we agree.

24 They say that none of the language typically
25 signaling a process claim -- or a product-by-process claim

1 appears in Claim 1. And we agree with that as well.

2 It is our position that Claim 1 is a product
3 claim whose literal scope is narrower than the words of the
4 claim would otherwise suggest based on the language in the
5 specification, basic lexicography, where the patentee tells
6 us what we have to do to get the compounds of Claim 1.

7 But that doesn't make Claim 1 a
8 product-by-process claim. As the plaintiffs have pointed
9 out, product-by-process claims are typically reserved for
10 those products that can't be described or otherwise claimed
11 other than by which the method they were made. That is not
12 the position we are taking here.

13 In product-by-process claims, the products
14 themselves are novel. We don't concede that the products of
15 Claim 1 are novel.

16 In product-by-process claims, the process
17 limitations serve as limitations for purposes of
18 infringement but not validity. Again, we are not arguing
19 any of that. We are not taking that position.

20 What they rely on for saying that the process of
21 the '650 patent is non-restrictive is a disclosure that they
22 showed Your Honor a little bit earlier in Column 9.
23 Referring to Figure 1, we have our language talking about
24 the crucial reaction process. In the next paragraph, Column
25 9, it says, This is explained using reaction diagram Figure

1 1 in which conversions with R-configured compounds are
2 described but without this being restrictive.

3 We submit that that last portion of not being
4 restrictive, Your Honor, it's not a statement that the
5 process steps can be varied. It's a statement that that
6 process shown in Figure 1 isn't limited to the R-configured
7 compounds that are shown. If we look at Figure 1, they are
8 all isomeric. They all show R-configured compounds. And as
9 proof of this point, we have only to look at Claim 1. Claim
10 1 is not directed solely to the R-plus compounds. It is
11 directly to the R and the S and the racemic.

12 We submit that this statement is no more than
13 perhaps supporting disclosure for the breadth of Claim 1
14 which includes R, S, and racemic. But we don't read this
15 statement as saying these process steps can be varied.

16 Plaintiffs also make some arguments about claim
17 differentiation, Your Honor. And they say that in their
18 opening brief at Page 11 and 12. They, of course, say, if
19 the Court adopts defendants' proposed construction, the
20 doctrine of claim differentiation would be frustrated or
21 violated. We have Claim 1 and 7 covering the same material.
22 We absolutely disagree, for a couple of reasons.

23 First, the only process limitations, the only
24 process features defendants believe are part of Claim 1 are
25 Steps 1 through 3.

1 The fourth step, salt formation, is not part of
2 defendants' construction. To be clear, the salt formation
3 step is part of Claim 7. So even if Your Honor were to
4 adopt defendants' construction, Claims 1 and 7 would at
5 least be different by recitation in Claim 7 of the salt
6 formation step.

7 Second, in defendants' proposed construction, as
8 was shown in the figure, the first two steps can be carried
9 out in either order. Hydrogenation first, then followed by
10 reduction, or in reverse. In contrast, Claim 7 always
11 requires that the hydrogenation step occur first and
12 reduction second, not in the reverse order.

13 Again, a second reason why, even if Your Honor
14 adopts defendants' construction, Claims 1 and 7 will always
15 be differentiated.

16 A final point I would like to address, Your
17 Honor, the plaintiffs say that defendants' proposed
18 construction is nonsensical and inconsistent because we
19 omitted the fourth step from our proposed construction, we
20 omitted the salt formation step. But in making that
21 argument, plaintiffs concede in their opening brief that all
22 four Steps A through D are necessary to obtain the claimed
23 compounds in the salt form.

24 To be clear, defendants agree that all four
25 steps are necessary. But we only propose the first three as

1 limitations affecting the compounds of Claim 1 because
2 that's what the patentee tells us. He doesn't tell us that
3 Step 4, the salt formation step, is special or couldn't be
4 left to the knowledgeable person of ordinary skill in the
5 art.

6 We submit that our proposed construction is not
7 incomplete because we omitted that fourth step. Process
8 claims, product-by-process claims, aren't required to recite
9 every step in a process. In a multi-step process less than
10 all of the steps can be claimed. That is fairly well known.

11 I would point out, I believe there is an
12 inconsistency with plaintiffs saying that the four specific
13 steps, A through D, are necessary to obtain the compounds in
14 the salt form. But elsewhere they say that the four
15 specific steps are only exemplary. They are preferred. And
16 that they are non-restrictive. They don't limit the claims.
17 I am not sure how those two approaches are consistent.

18 But I guess I would close by saying that on this
19 record, Your Honor, given the language of the patent and the
20 prosecution history, and the plaintiffs' recognition that
21 the four steps are necessary, it is clear that the claimed
22 compounds are differentiated by those that were known in
23 Column 1, 3,3-diphenyldiphenylpropylamines, only based on
24 the reaction process used to make them.

25 As plaintiffs have said, there is nothing in the

1 claims that talk about stability or crystallinity or
2 anything else. So the process steps are really the only
3 difference.

4 That's all I have, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, counsel.

6 Plaintiff, brief reply.

7 MR. TRAINOR: Very briefly, Your Honor.

8 I am not sure that any of what we pointed out in
9 our argument was actually responded to there.

10 What I think was most telling is, we went
11 through a whole lot of description on the specification of
12 not this patent but primarily of other documents. And one
13 thing we didn't see was the words of the claim. We didn't
14 see Claim 1 up there, which is where you start with claim
15 construction. That is black-letter patent law.

16 With respect to the argument of claim
17 differentiation, and it sort of ties into a point that we
18 made in our opening, I think we are all in agreement that
19 all four steps are required to make a salt. And the
20 defendants are suggesting our construction leaves out that
21 fourth step. I didn't understand that when we read the
22 briefs. I don't understand it now.

23 Claim 1 is to a salt. Claim 1, we put it on the
24 screen, is to a compound in a salt form.

25 To take the position that we agree, you need to

1 have all four steps to make a salt, and in the proposed
2 construction it leaves off the salt formation step, you are
3 necessarily left with a claim that had issued and was
4 directed to a salt as issued from the Patent Office but
5 under this construction is no longer a salt. And that
6 cannot be the proper construction.

7 The other thing I would just point out, Your
8 Honor, we heard a lot about what is known and this was known
9 and that was known. 3,3-diphenylpropylamines, of course,
10 they were known. As a class of compounds, they have been
11 known since the beginning of the 20th century, if not
12 earlier.

13 The few references to the more specific genus of
14 the monoesters being known, that is a reference to the
15 inventors' own co-pending application. It was not known in
16 the prior art. It is not prior art. We have heard no
17 argument as to why we are incorrect that that document in
18 any disclosure about these salts, any disclosure about the
19 processes, is prior art.

20 In fact, when you really think about that
21 argument, and we hear about these properties and these are
22 the problems with tolterodine and these are the problems
23 with the 5-HMT, all of that sort of smacks of an argument on
24 the merits of invalidity, that this claim should not have
25 issued because these things were not known about the

1 compounds.

2 That is not an issue for claim construction.

3 The question is whether there is sufficient structure in
4 this claim that should be left as is and would be understood
5 by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

6 Thank you, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Hold on just a second.

9 (Pause.)

10 All right. Counsel, is there anything we should
11 discuss while we have you all here? Is everything going
12 along smoothly? Do we need to address anything while we are
13 together?

14 Wonderful. Safe travels.

15 (Hearing concluded at 10:37 a.m.)

16 - - -

17 Reporter: Kevin Maurer

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